

GIRARD DOUBLE HOUSE

(French Type Double House)  
56-58<sup>5</sup> Conception Street  
Mobile, Alabama

Mobile Co.

HABS No. <sup>14</sup>~~16~~-12

HABS  
ALA,  
49-MOBI,  
13-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

GIRARD DOUBLE HOUSE

(THE CHARLES W. RAPIER HOUSE)

(FRENCH TYPE HOUSE (Residence))  
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.  
(56-58 S. Conception St.)

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Ownership:

Present Owner: Charles W. Rapier Jr.,  
From 1928 to 1935

Previous Owners: Francois Girard.  
From 1828 to 1851.  
Henry S. Jayne.  
Joachim Auntuney.  
Henry Chamberlain.  
Charles W. Rapier.  
From 1851 to 1876.  
Mrs. Charles W. Rapier.  
From 1876 to 1928.  
Charles W. Rapier Jr.,  
1928 to 1935.

Date of Erection: 1828.

Architect: Francois Girard.

Builder: Francois Girard.

Present Condition: The exterior front and interior of main principal rooms have not been changed, except for minor repairs, and are in good condition. The second floor rear rooms once opened on a balcony, now removed.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Brick; painted white; slate roof; cast iron front porch trim; framing, and interior wood-work in general, of yellow pine; black walnut stair end-newel and rail; plaster walls and ceilings, including ceiling of the driveway.

Other Existing Records: (SEE NEXT PAGE)

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Additional Data: The central driveway leading to a court yard in the rear, and formerly through wrought iron gates near its west end, is of unusual interest.

The recessed front doors, simple and refined interior trim, narrow and well designed stairway are in harmony with the modest interior.

See:

"Historic Buildings of Old Mobile"

Compiled by John F. Glennon.

Pen & ink drawings done by,  
Chioi Glennon Lasley.

This book is an advertisement of the First National Bank, Mobile, Alabama.

Source of Material:

Mr. John Glennon  
205 St. Francis Street  
Mobile, Alabama.  
Mr. Charles W. Rapier Jr.,  
56 & 58 Conception St.  
Mobile, Alabama.  
Mr. Gustave Chaudron Jr.,  
258 Stocking St.  
Mobile, Alabama.

Compiled by:

Katherine Floyd.  
Auburn, Alabama.  
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401 Church St,  
Mobile, Alabama.

Approved:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.

Date:

7-20-1936

Rev. Dec. 4 '36 T.W.

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FRENCH TYPE DOUBLE HOUSE  
56-58 Conception Street  
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This house at 56-58 Conception Street is one of the two double houses existing in Mobile.<sup>1</sup> The arched passageway through the middle of the building is probably the result of French New Orleans influence.<sup>2</sup> The balconies are of cast-iron and are supported by decorated cast-iron posts. The cornice has brick dentils, each dentil composed of two headers.

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1. The other house is at 8-10 South Jackson Street, Mobile. See HABS 16-25.
  2. "...the old houses of the French Quarter nearly all had courtyards, which in the case of important mansions were entered from the street through a lofty arched portal and enclosed passageway, paved with flags or brick laid herringbone..." (Curtis, N. C.: New Orleans, 1933, p. 62).

(Revised and rewritten at HABS  
Headquarters, Feb. 15, 1936 -  
H.C.F.)

(Original sheet in field notebook).